

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims indicating the current status of each claim and including amendments currently entered as highlighted.

1-25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A method of making a three-dimensional object constituted of a large number of thin preformed sheets each bonded on one side to the next adjacent sheet on its opposite side, with each sheet cut along a contour corresponding to the contour of the respective layer constituted by the sheet in the object, the method comprising selectively applying to one side of each sheet a releasing agent effective to inhibit bonding between adjacent sheets, the releasing agent being applied selectively in a manner such that, after the sheet has been bonded to the next adjacent sheet on that side, the surface of the sheet within the respective contour is bonded to the next adjacent sheet, while the remaining portion of the respective sheet not within said contour is readily separable from the three-dimensional object.

27. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the side of each sheet opposite to that coated with said releasing agent is covered on its complete surface with an adhesive to promote the bonding of all said sheets to each other except where covered by said releasing agent.

28. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein said adhesive is applied to the under surfaces of said sheets, and said releasing agent is applied to the upper surfaces of said sheets.

29. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein said sheets are individually fed to and stacked on a horizontal table which is successively lowered as the sheets are successively stacked thereon.

30. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein each individual sheet is coated on its upper surface outside of its respective contour with said releasing agent as the sheet is fed to said horizontal table to be stacked on top of the other sheets thereon.

31. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 30, wherein each individual sheet is coated on its upper surface with said releasing agent by a releasing-agent applicator controlled to apply the releasing agent outside of the contour of the respective sheet while the sheet is moving.

32. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 30, wherein each individual sheet is coated on its upper surface with said releasing agent by a moving releasing-agent applicator controlled to apply the releasing agent outside of the contour of the respective sheet while the sheet is stationary.

33. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 31, wherein each individual sheet is cut along its respective contour by a cutting tool which is driven in two dimensions to trace the respective contour while the sheet is stationary.

34. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein each individual sheet is coated on its complete lower surface with said adhesive as the sheet is fed to said horizontal table to be stacked on top of the other sheets thereon.

35. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 30, wherein each sheet is precoated on at least one of its surfaces with said adhesive.

36. (previously presented) Apparatus for making a three-dimensional object constituted of a large number of thin preformed sheets each bonded on its opposite sides to the next adjacent sheets on its opposite sides, with each sheet cut by a cutting tool along a contour corresponding to the contour of the respective layer constituted by the sheet in the object, characterized in that said apparatus includes a releasing-agent applicator for selectively applying a coating on one side of each sheet, before being bonded to the next adjacent sheet on that side, of a releasing agent, said coating being selectively applied in a manner such that, after the respective sheet has been bonded to the next adjacent sheet on that side, the surface of the sheet within its respective contour is bonded to said next adjacent sheet, while the remaining portion of the respective sheet not within said contour may be readily separated from the three-dimensional object.

37. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein said releasing-agent applicator is located to apply said releasing agent to the upper surfaces of said sheets.

38. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 37, wherein said apparatus further includes: a horizontal table; a feeder for feeding said sheets individually to, and stacking them on, said horizontal table; and a drive for lowering said table as said sheets are successively stacked thereon.

39. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 38, wherein said drive comprises a rotary motor and screws driven by said motor and coupled to the corners of said horizontal table for raising and lowering the table.

40. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 38, wherein said releasing-agent applicator is located to apply said releasing agent to the upper surface of each sheet as it is fed to said horizontal table to be stacked on top of the other sheets on the table.

41. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein said releasing-agent applicator is controlled to apply said releasing agent outside of the contour of the respective sheet while the sheet is moving.

42. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein said releasing-agent applicator is movable and is driven to apply the releasing agent outside of the contours of the respective sheet while the sheet is stationary.

43. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein said cutting tool is driven in two dimensions to trace the respective contour of the sheet while the sheet is stationary.

44. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein said releasing-agent applicator and said cutting tool are carried by a common head which is driven in two dimensions to define the contour of the respective sheet.

45. (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein said apparatus further includes an adhesive applicator for applying an adhesive coating

to the under surface of each sheet as it is fed to said horizontal table, to effect the bonding thereof to the underlying sheet at the portions of the underlying sheet not covered by the releasing agent.

46-50. (canceled)

51. (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said selective deployment of said releasing agent is effected by selective application of said releasing agent.

52. (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said selective deployment of said releasing agent is effected by selective removal by a coating of said releasing agent.

53-54. (canceled)

55. (new) The method according to claim 26, wherein said releasing agent is applied on at least one of said sheets over a major portion of the surface of the sheet not included within the respective contour.

56. (new) The apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said releasing agent applicator is configured to apply said releasing agent coating on at least one of said sheets over a majority of the part of the sheet not included within the respective contour.